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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE  
RUEHFSI/DIR FSINFATC  
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC  
RUBDPLA/CDC ATLANTA  
RUCPDOC/ALL USDOC DISTDIR COLLECTIVE WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFIUU/CDRAMC FT BELVOIR VA  
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC//XOXXI//  
RHMFIUU/HQ AFOSI DOQ ANDREWS AFB MD  
RUZDADI/HQ AFOSI DOQ ANDREWS AFB MD  
RHMFIUU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC  
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RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
INFO RUESBKC/ATO ASIA

UNCLAS STATE 019253

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CASC PTER ASEC BG

SUBJECT: TRAVEL ALERT - BANGLADESH

¶1. THIS TRAVEL ALERT IS BEING ISSUED TO ALERT U.S. CITIZENS OF SAFETY CONCERN IN BANGLADESH IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE RECENT ATTEMPTED MUTINY BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE BANGLADESH RIFLES (BDR), A PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR BORDER SECURITY. THIS TRAVEL ALERT URGES

AMERICAN CITIZENS TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE RISKS OF TRAVEL TO BANGLADESH AT THIS TIME, AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 1, ¶2009.

¶2. ON FEBRUARY 25-26, MUTINEERS SEIZED CONTROL OF BDR HEADQUARTERS IN DHAKA AND KILLED DOZENS OF SENIOR ARMY

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OFFICERS AS WELL AS FAMILY MEMBERS AND OTHERS. THE SECURITY SITUATION REMAINS UNSETTLED AS NEW INFORMATION SURFACES REGARDING THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY MUTINEERS. THE ARMY, IN COOPERATION WITH POLICE, ALSO HAS LAUNCHED A NATIONWIDE OPERATION TO SEARCH FOR ESCAPED MUTINEERS. THIS SEARCH MAY DISRUPT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND INCONVENIENCE THE TRAVELING PUBLIC UNTIL MUTINEERS HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED.

¶3. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISES ALL U.S. CITIZENS TO EXERCISE CAUTION AND AVOID UNNECESSARY TRAVEL IN AND AROUND BANGLADESH. U.S. CITIZENS ARE REMINDED THAT EVEN GATHERINGS INTENDED TO BE PEACEFUL CAN TURN CONFRONTATIONAL AND ESCALATE INTO VIOLENCE QUICKLY AND UNEXPECTEDLY. THE U.S. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO MONITOR THE SITUATION.

¶4. U.S. CITIZENS ARE URGED TO MONITOR THE LOCAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES AND CONTACT THE U.S. EMBASSY IF THEY HAVE ANY SECURITY-RELATED QUESTIONS. ENGLISH LANGUAGE LOCAL NEWS IS AVAILABLE ON THE FOLLOWING CHANNELS AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

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ATN - 1800

BANGLA VISION - 2105

BTV - 2200

BTV - 2330 (ALSO BROADCASTS BY ALL LOCAL SATELLITE)

STATIONS: ATN, CHANNEL I, NTV, RTV, BANGLA VISION, AND  
BOISHAKI)

¶5. THE U.S. EMBASSY IN DHAKA CAN BE REACHED AT (880-2)  
885-5500 DURING REGULAR HOURS AND FOR AFTER-HOURS  
EMERGENCIES. THE WEBSITE ADDRESS IS DHAKA.USEMBASSY.GOV.  
FOR THE LATEST SECURITY INFORMATION, AMERICANS LIVING AND  
TRAVELING ABROAD SHOULD REGULARLY MONITOR THE DEPARTMENT'S  
BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS INTERNET WEB SITE AT  
TRAVEL.STATE.GOV, WHERE THE CURRENT COUNTRY SPECIFIC  
INFORMATION, CURRENT TRAVEL WARNING, CURRENT TRAVEL  
ALERTS, WORLDWIDE CAUTION, AND OTHER TRAVEL ALERTS AND  
TRAVEL WARNINGS CAN BE FOUND.

¶6. UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON SECURITY CAN ALSO BE  
OBTAINED BY CALLING  
1-888-407-4747 TOLL FREE IN THE U.S. AND CANADA; OR, FOR  
CALLERS OUTSIDE THE U.S. AND CANADA, A REGULAR TOLL LINE

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AT 1-202-501-4444. THESE NUMBERS ARE AVAILABLE FROM 8:00  
AM TO 8:00 P.M., EASTERN TIME, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
(EXCEPT U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAYS).

¶7. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

CLINTON